

CONTRACT WITH OEHHA FOR REVIEW OF HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Site Mitigation Unit (SMU) of the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) provides voluntary oversight for remediation of contaminated sites within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County CUPA and the cities of Los Angeles and Santa Monica. The majority of the sites under SMU oversight are industrial/commercial properties that retain their industrial/commercial use. However, due to land value appreciation, population growth and a need for additional housing, some of these industrial/commercial properties are being rezoned for residential developments. At residential developments, it is preferable to remediate soil contamination to non-detect or background concentrations to minimize any potential health risk. Because of economical and/or technical feasibility it is not always possible to remove contaminants to non-detect or background concentrations.

To evaluate the potential health risk from residual contaminants posed to the current/future occupant of the site, a health risk assessment (HRA) is required. It is preferable (and soon will be required) that HRAs be reviewed by a Toxicologist. To achieve this goal, SMU has established a contract with the State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), to have their Toxicologists perform this function. OEHHA will review, evaluate and if appropriate, approve the risk assessment. When requested, OEHHA Toxicologist will provide SMU consultation services on issues concerning human health and/or environmental risks.

Under the SMU oversight agreement, the property owner/developer will be required to reimburse HHMD for the cost incurred by OEHHA review.